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15254

A SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE  
UTILIZATION OF POWER IN THE RURAL HOUSEHOLD.

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- I. The Bureau of Home Economics will summarize all available figures on the distribution of household labor in order to determine the relative amount of time the women are spending on the usual household tasks and make them available to those who are interested in this study. This data can be supplemented by the information now being gotten from Miss Bailey's time studies.
  1. These figures should show the amount of time per day or week given to each task and form the basis for determining where mechanical help is most needed.
  2. The work to be done should be analyzed so as to show the jobs for which we have electrical equipment at the present time. This information can be prepared by the bureau but should be checked by commercial agencies.
- II. Time studies should be made to determine accurately the amount of time saved by use of the various forms of power equipment. This information is needed in order to determine the relative time saving of the different types of equipment. Such figures can be used most effectively in showing the saving of time made possible by use of the electric equipment.
  1. Amount of time saved on the individual job. In order to obtain this information in a usable form it is suggested that time studies be made by the same person or groups of persons of standardized jobs before and after the installation of the equipment.
  2. Extent of use of this equipment in the household. We may see the value of a given piece of equipment as a time saver on a given job but question the advisability of its purchase because it will be so



little used in the daily or weekly routine of the household. Figures should be collected to show the amount of use per day, week, or month of a particular device.

III. Detailed studies on available equipment to determine which types do the work most effectively. This should result in the following information:

1. A statement of the general type of construction which gives the best results. E.g. Which type of washing machine does the work most effectively - The dolly, the cylindrical, the oscillating, the vacuum cup.
2. Suggested modifications which would increase the efficiency.

IV. Suggestions as to household tasks for which household equipment is needed, though not available at the present time.

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